also encouraging introduction of biological and botanical pesticides.

.. Effects of pesticides on labourers

1782. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labourers employed for spraying various pesticides over the years are affected with various diseases such as eye-defects, muscular degeneration, giddiness etc.; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken so far to ensure that health of the agricultural labourers is not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Pesticides being toxic in nature can cause health damage including diseases such as eye-defects, muscular degeneration, giddiness etc. to those spraying pesticides in the fields, if prescribed precautions are not taken. To avoid hazards, the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 have permitted the use of only those pesticides which are safe to human beings, animals and environment and have also prescribed the required syraying precautions

Government have also been emphasizing on the State Governments and Pesticide Industry the need for educating the farmers to follow proper procedures and precautions while spraying pesticides.

Shortage of edible oils

1783. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is short fall in availability of edible oils at fair prices despite CLUSA and CIDA, Projects and Technology Mission on oilseeds, NDDB and other Government agencies having taken various projects since 1977;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NDDB has lost heavily on Market Intervention project on edible oils without profiting neither the farmers nor the consumers; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir. There is a gap between aggregate demand for edible oils within the country and total availability.

(b) No, Sir. NDDB has managed Market Intervention Operations (MIO) so far without requiring any cash support from Government by way of reimbursement of losses. NDDB has paid remunerative prices to both groundnut and mustard producers which have been higher than minimum support prices declared by the Government of India. MIO has also benefited consumers by increasing sales of Dhara oil to approximately 73,620 MT in the financial year 1990-91.

(c) In view of the above, the question of Government taking remedial measures does not arise.

Conversion of MG Lines into BG Lines in the Country

1784. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of MG line into BG line conversion projects in different parts of the country; and

(b) what is the progress made in Manmad-Purli Adilabad-Parbhani and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The progress of various sanctioned projects for